



The Seed Source

Newsletter of Kansas Crop Improvement Association

October 2025

Important Dates

November 4
Election Day

November 11
Veterans Day

November 27-28
Thanksgiving
Office Closed

December 15
Distribution Reports
Due (online)

December 25-26
Christmas
Office Closed

January 1
New Year's Day
Office Closed

February 17-18
Annual Meeting and
2026 Seed and Crops
Conference

KCIA Funds New Research Project with K-State

Earlier this year, the KCIA research committee and board of directors approved funding a proposal submitted by KSU Agronomy Professor Dr. Romulo Lollato. The proposal is titled: "Improving Irrigated Wheat Yield and Water-Use Efficiency Using Grower-Reported Production Data." It is an exciting and unique proposal in that it will be conducted using direct input and data from many KCIA growers and in turn, the outcomes of this research will have a direct benefit to our growers.

Claire Bott is a master's student at Kansas State University, advised by Dr. Romulo Lollato. Claire is conducting the KCIA-funded research with an emphasis on seed wheat management and production.

She will work together with farmers to gather management information from both irrigated and dryland seed production fields. The collected data will be used to identify management practices that increase yield, seed quality, and water-use efficiency for greater economic return.



Claire will begin contacting KCIA growers in the coming weeks to set up interview appointments. During the interview, she will be collecting information on field-level details such as yield, seeding rates, dates of operation, inputs, irrigation, and production costs, to name a few.

KCIA strongly urges all growers to consider participating and accommodating Claire to make this project as extensive as possible. These are your research dollars at work and your participation will provide a very direct benefit back to you!

New Online Field Application Shines in First Season!

The 2025 wheat season was the inaugural year for the new Field App section of the Dashboard. Launched in early 2025, this addition was praised by growers and inspectors alike for its user friendly functions and its integration with other parts of the Dashboard. Over the course of the summer, a few bugs and suggestions for improvement were reported from users and the system was further refined by our development team.

As we head into the 2026 wheat application season, the Field App is fully functional and ready for new applications. There is no need to wait till the March 15 deadline, you can start submitting your applications as soon as you plant this fall! This year growers will be able to select 2025 fields as seed sources and "replicate" parts of 2025 applications, further streamlining the process. Thanks to the integration with the "Manage Lots" tab on the Dashboard, growers still have the option to select their own lots as seed sources. As always, please don't hesitate to notify KCIA staff of any glitches or ideas for improvements on the Field App.

Dashboard 2.0 Update

In brief, we are still working on the improvements mentioned in the previous newsletter. We realize this has been a long timeline. It was decided that instead of the spot patches we had been making, this is now a full rebuild behind the scenes, with several desirable outcomes. This larger update will improve security against hackers, improve our ability to make adjustments and updates in the future, and tie everything together with the new field application portal. With this increased scope, we are finding out there are a lot of moving parts in our online certification program. There are a lot more cascading changes needed with every update idea than we initially realized. All of which seems to take longer than expected, and we do apologize for any inconvenience.

Erica is currently testing the features and layout to ensure the best experience for you, our users, when this update is posted. So far we have looked at the label ordering, pending lot actions, submitting non-certified sample requests, removing an initial lot if it is deferred during testing, adding seed count to your lot and then label orders more automatically, and improved navigation and reports for KCIA staff. In the near future, she will be testing separate signing dates for each party in a resale as well as print previews right after initiating a resale action, downloading your distribution data, better consolidation and blend checks and tracking, and several other items.

These changes have been on a list of requested features we've been keeping since our launch three years ago. During this process we have identified even more feature updates we would like to incorporate in the future. We hope you find it worth the wait!

KCIA Hosts Annual AOSCA Meeting

This summer, Kansas Crop Improvement Association hosted a successful annual meeting for the Association of Official Seed Certifying Agencies in Kansas City! Hosting the meeting was a group effort from all KCIA and AOSCA staff with assistance from K-State Foundation Seed Director Addie Rose Clary. During the awards dinner on June 17, 2025, retired Executive Director Steve Schuler received an honorary AOSCA membership. Current Executive Director Eric Fabrizio received a 25 years of service award. Field and Seed Certification Manager Marion Spiering received her certificate for completing the AOSCA Academy training. The meeting was a great opportunity for KCIA staff to network with other agencies and share ideas and insights on seed certification.

KCIA staff was also elected to leadership positions within AOSCA. Erica was elected vice-chair of the Legislation & Bylaw committee. Marion was elected vice-chair of the Small Grains crop committee.



L-to-R: Marion Spiering, Addie Clary, Erica Miller, Steve Schuler, Eric Fabrizio

Seed Laboratory Update

The craziness of another wheat testing season is behind us with only a few samples now coming in. Overall, the season went smoothly and there were no major challenges along the way. After fielding a number of phone calls around harvest time, with concerns over low test weights coming out of the field, we only had one lot deferred for being too low. We did observe a limited number of samples with Fusarium head scab, but it generally had only a minor impact on the final germination of those lot with infection. I would be remiss to not commend our lab staff and three excellent interns, in handling the high sample volume we get during this time. We processed 2,261 samples between July 1 and October 1, including 1,082 ten-pound samples for final certification. It has been great to catch our breath for a couple of weeks, but we are now shifting to other species as we are already receiving samples of fall harvested crops.

Jordan Colson Hired

In March, Jordan Colson (Rayshell's daughter) was hired as a full-time analyst in the Seed Lab. Jordan had been working part-time while completing her bachelor's degree in Zoology through on-line coursework at Oregon State University. We are thrilled to have Jordan on staff and appreciate her infectious smile and enthusiasm for learning more of the details of seed testing. Further proof that "the seed doesn't fall far from the plant!"

KCIA Invests in Building Repairs, New Equipment, and Vehicle

KCIA staff have spent some time making needed updates and repairs at the office in 2025! We retired the 2005 Ford Freestyle in favor of a 2022 Ford Explorer. A new Foss protein analyzer was purchased to replace the previous unit, which was simply too costly to repair. And we no longer need strategically placed buckets to catch the water leaks during a rainstorm, as we recently had an elastomeric sealant applied to the roof. Now we just need a good rain to test it out!

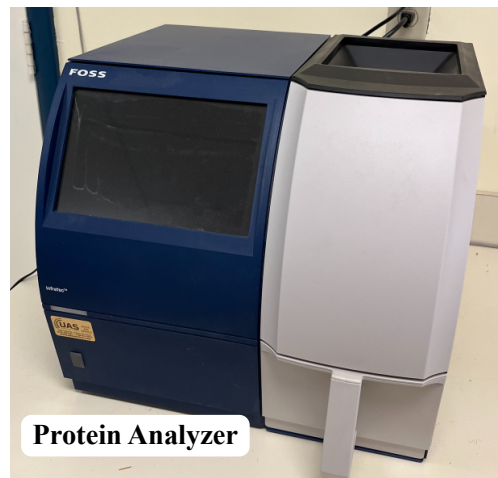


Before

KCIA Building Roof



After



Protein Analyzer



Ford Explorer

KCIA Standards Updates in 2025

The standards committee met in 2025 to review four groups of changes and updates compiled by KCIA staff. During the board meetings February 17th and July 29th, 2025, it was voted to accept the recommendations of the committee. An updated standards document was posted on our website after each vote.

Some notable updates include: the addition of wheat x jointed goatgrass hybrid and wheat x triticale hybrid to the crop standards, updated turfgrass field standards and prohibited weeds list, added durum wheat standards, updated sampling procedures to align with national standards, updated pre-print bag label section and updated the seals and sealing section.

Several changes were made throughout to update form titles and include online processes, to clarify existing language, remove building address, specific fees, and dates, as well as re-ordering some sections to improve readability. Additionally, Erica has reformatted the full standards document for a consistent appearance and it now has a navigatable table of contents to jump right to a section heading. The current version pdf is available on our website at kscrop.org/resources.html.

Please let staff or standards committee members know if you have any comments or concerns with these updates. Chris Boyd is your Vice-President of Standards.

Distribution Reporting Due December 15

All distribution reports, including sales and discarded/sold as grain amounts, are due to be entered online by December 15th. After several years of no late fee while everyone adjusted to the online dashboard, we will be verifying 2025 crop year entries more closely again. Remember, for all blank bulk retail sales certificates and bulk invoice labels, you must go into the “Lot Details & Tracking History” to record the sales amounts.

Much of your sales reporting can be submitted as soon as you complete the sale. If you are waiting to enter in a batch, we do recommend using a sales tracking method such as the Bulk Seed – Bin Inventory & Sales Tracking Sheet available on our website resources. This is especially important for those of you with employees or contractors handling the sales, such as Bulk Retail Facilities or Bulk Distribution Centers, or even just a separate person in the scale house and at the computer in the office.

Our office staff is still working through clearing out lots initially uploaded to the dashboard and reported on paper prior to 2024. Even after the pending lot actions are available to you, please do not discard any amounts unless that seed was actually discarded instead of sold. If you have any questions on lot reports or current totals on your dashboard view, please send an email to kscrop@kansas.net.

2025 KCIA Summer Interns

KCIA was excited to work with three interns this summer! They were responsible for assisting with field inspections and lab testing and excelled at both.

Karlie is from Delia, KS, and is majoring in Agricultural Education with a minor in Agronomy at Kansas State University. She is involved in leadership of the state FFA.

Natalee is from Scandia, KS, and is majoring in Agricultural Education with a secondary major in Global Food Systems Leadership at Kansas State University.

Payton is from Tribune, KS, and is majoring in Animal Science at Kansas State University. Payton completed the KCIA internship for credit with K-State and participated in the Agronomy Internship symposium on September 25, 2025.



L-R: Payton Walk, Karlie Albright, Natalee Bray.



Payton's Presentation at the K-State Agronomy Internship Symposium

2026 Seed and Crops Conference February 17-18

The date is set, February 17th-18th, for the 2026 Seed and Crops Conference. We are currently in the process of planning our annual association meeting and the conference activities including entertainment, speakers, and associate meetings. We would appreciate any suggested speakers or potential exhibitors contact info to make our event an entertaining, learning, and networking success!

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